



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Early in the morning of Sunday, January 9, 2011, our sister MaryAnn took her final breath, quietly taking her leave from those who had surrounded her with love in her final hours and, indeed, throughout her life. How fitting that the completion of her commitment to the Lord at Baptism through the living out of her vows of profession, should reach its summation on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Surely, she was greeted by the Lord, who tenderly took her by the hand, saying: "Welcome, my chosen one, in whom I have delighted." (Isaiah 42:1)

Born in Crestline, Ohio, on February 3, 1937, Mary Ann was the eldest of six children lovingly brought into the world by her parents Joseph and Mary (Johnston) Schnelker. Baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Church in Galion, Ohio, she was educated at St. Joseph's School and St. Patrick's School, also in Galion, Ohio. As an aspirant with the Sisters of St. Francis, Mary Ann attended at St. Francis Academy in Joliet, Illinois. She entered the Congregation as a postulant on September 6, 1954. The following year, on August 13, 1955, she was received into the novitiate and given the name Sr. Daniel Marie. Two years later, she made her first profession and enthusiastically embarked upon a thirty-year ministry of teaching and elementary school administration, a career for which she was prepared at the College of St. Francis and Northern Illinois University. Making her final profession in August of 1960, she definitively embraced the Franciscan way of life.

Inspired from her youth to give praise to God always and everywhere, Sr. Mary Ann cultivated her natural gifts as a musician and artist, generously setting her talents at the service of the people of God. As an exemplar of what it means to be a lifelong learner, she took a brief sabbatical in 1987 and returned to her *alma mater*, to share her newly acquired abilities in computer science with the students at St. Francis Academy. In 1990, she readily made available to Joliet Catholic Academy her organizational and secretarial skills. From 2000-2004, she generously served as the General Secretary of the Congregation. Through the years, she remained involved in a variety of volunteer ministries at Our Lady of Angels Retirement Home as

Alleluia!



Sister Mary Ann Schnelker, OSF

well as other special projects close to her heart. Most recently, she served as office manager for the Upper Room Crisis Hotline from 2007-1010.

Sr. Mary Ann's life was characterized by "striving," a word she often used to describe herself in her correspondence with others. From young adulthood, she was no stranger to sickness, the burden of treatments, and physical limitations. She faced the challenges of life – both expected and unexpected, with courage and creativity. Entering ever more deeply into Paschal mystery, she embraced life as a disciple and as a dreamer. Eager to expand her knowledge of the healing arts, "for own sake and that of others," she discovered that God had gifted her with an inner power and grace-filled energy to mend broken hearts, calm anxious spirits, and soothe pain-filled bodies. Known for her gentle humor, her abiding concern for others, and her amazing resiliency, Sr. Mary Ann was a daughter, sister, teacher, administrator, mentor, patient, healer, friend and companion, whose life was prayerfully centered in God. Her joy-filled capacity for love was without measure. When asked what section of our Constitutions was most reflective of her own convictions about life in community, she cited § 9 and §10, "*We treasure one another as we share our possessions and talents, our joys and sorrows, our ideals and our very selves. We are sensitive to one another as we bear each other's burdens with compassion.*" Indeed, our sister, Mary Ann, lived what she believed.

Amen, Alleluia!

Sister Mary Ann Schnelker, OSF

February 3, 1937 — January 9, 2011

<i>Born:</i>	February 3, 1937
<i>Parents:</i>	Joseph D. and Mary (Johnston) Schnelker
<i>Postulancy:</i>	September 6, 1954
<i>Novitiate:</i>	August 13, 1955
<i>First Profession:</i>	August 12, 1957
<i>Final Profession:</i>	August 13, 1960
<i>Entered New Life:</i>	January 9, 2011

Ministry History

1957-1962	Teacher: Grade 5; Assistant Organist, St. Ann, Lansing, Illinois
1962-1964	Teacher: Grade 6; Organist, St. Bernard's, Joliet, Illinois
1964-1975	Teacher: Grades 4, 6, 7, 8; Organist, St. Jude, Joliet
1975-1978	Teacher: Grade 7, Religion, Art; Assistant Principal, St. Peter, Mansfield, Ohio
1978-1986	Assistant Principal: St. Peter, Mansfield
1986-1987	Sabbatical
1987-1990	Computer Supervisor: St. Francis Academy, Joliet
1990-1991	Secretary, Registrar, Computer Supervisor: Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet
1992-1997	Registrar: Joliet Catholic Academy, Joliet
1997-2000	Student Record Coordinator: Joliet Catholic Academy
2000-2004	General Secretary: Sisters of St. Francis, Joliet
2005-2007	Community Service: Joliet
2007-2010	Office Manager: Upper Room Crisis Hotline, Joliet

<i>Wake:</i>	Thursday, January 13, 2011, 2:00-6:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Prayer Service:</i>	Thursday, January 13, 2011, 4:45 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Mass of Christian Burial:</i>	Friday, January 13, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Our Lady of Angels, Joliet
<i>Burial:</i>	Friday, January 14, 2011, leaving Our Lady of Angels at 9:00 a.m. to Resurrection Cemetery, Romeoville, IL
<i>Interment:</i>	Section 8, Lot 361, Grave 3, Resurrection Cemetery
<i>Predeceased by:</i>	Her parents, Joseph D. and Mary (Johnston) Schnelker and her sister Margaret Laughbaum
<i>Survived by:</i>	Her sisters Barbara J. (Edward C.) Schroeder, and Norma Jean (Richard) Metz; and her brothers, Daniel J. (Laurie) Schnelker and Richard T. (Cathy) Schnelker

Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Ann